



Greek

Phrasebook & Dictionary

A decorative horizontal line that spans the width of the page, ending in a curved, speech-bubble-like shape on the right side.

acknowledgments

This 7th edition of Lonely Planet's *Greek phrasebook* is based on the previous edition by the Lonely Planet Language Products team and translator Dr Thanasis Spilias.

Thanasis studied in Greece (University of Thessaloniki) and Australia (University of Melbourne, La Trobe University and University of New England). He has taught Greek language and culture at Deakin and La Trobe Universities and worked as the State Consultant for Greek Language (Victoria, Australia). Thanasis' main research interests are in Greek language and literature, Greek–Australian literature and literary translation. He has published articles in both Greece and Australia, and has co-edited *Reflections: Selected Works from Greek Australian Literature*. With G Betts and S Gauntlett, he has translated Vitsentzos Kornaros' *Erotokritos* into English.



make the most of this phrasebook ...

Anyone can speak another language! It's all about confidence. Don't worry if you can't remember your school language lessons or if you've never learnt a language before. Even if you learn the very basics (on the inside covers of this book), your travel experience will be the better for it. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain when the locals hear you making an effort.

finding things in this book

For easy navigation, this book is in sections. The Basics chapters are the ones you'll thumb through time and again. The Practical section covers basic travel situations like catching transport and finding a bed. The Social section gives you conversational phrases, pick-up lines, the ability to express opinions – so you can get to know people. Food has a section all of its own: gourmets and vegetarians are covered and local dishes feature. Safe Travel equips you with health and police phrases, just in case. Remember the colours of each section and you'll find everything easily; or use the comprehensive Index. Otherwise, check the two-way traveller's Dictionary for the word you need.

being understood

Throughout this book you'll see coloured phrases on each page. They're phonetic guides to help you pronounce the language. You don't even need to look at the language itself, but you'll get used to the way we've represented particular sounds. The pronunciation chapter in Basics will explain more, but you can feel confident that if you read the coloured phrase slowly, you'll be understood.

communication tips

Body language, ways of doing things, sense of humour – all have a role to play in every culture. 'Local talk' boxes show you common ways of saying things, or everyday language to drop into conversation. 'Listen for ...' boxes supply the phrases you may hear. They start with the Greek translation (so a Greek speaker can look up the phrase they want to say to you) and then lead in to the pronunciation guide and the English translation.

about greek.....8

map	8	introduction	9
-----------	---	--------------------	---

basics.....11

pronunciation	11	questions.....	27
vowel sounds	11	requests	29
consonant sounds.....	12	verbs.....	29
word stress.....	13	word order	31
intonation.....	13	glossary	32
reading & writing	14	language difficulties	33
a-z phrasebuilder	15	numbers & amounts	35
contents.....	15	cardinal numbers.....	35
adjectives & adverbs	17	ordinal numbers	36
articles	17	fractions	37
be.....	18	useful amounts.....	37
case.....	19	time & dates	39
demonstratives	20	telling the time	39
gender	21	the calendar.....	40
have.....	21	present	41
negatives	22	past.....	41
personal pronouns.....	23	future	42
plurals	24	during the day	42
possessives	25	money.....	43
prepositions.....	26		

practical45

transport	45	directions	63
getting around	45	accommodation.....	65
tickets.....	46	finding accommodation.....	65
luggage	49	booking ahead & checking in.....	66
plane	50	requests & queries.....	68
bus, trolley bus & coach	50	complaints	70
train & metro	51	checking out.....	71
boat	52	camping.....	72
taxi	54	renting.....	73
car & motorbike.....	55	staying with locals.....	74
bicycle.....	59	shopping	75
border crossing.....	61	looking for.....	75
border crossing	61	making a purchase.....	76
at customs.....	62		

bargaining.....	77	banking	91
books & reading	78	sightseeing.....	93
clothes	79	getting in	95
electronic goods.....	79	tours	96
hairdressing.....	81	business.....	97
music & DVD.....	81	doing business	97
video & photography.....	81	looking for a job.....	99
repairs.....	83	senior & disabled	
communications	85	travellers	101
post office.....	85	children	103
phone.....	87	travelling with children	103
mobile/cell phone.....	89	talking with children	105
the internet.....	90	talking about children	106

social107

meeting people.....	107	pick-up lines	131
basics.....	107	rejections.....	132
greetings & goodbyes	107	getting closer.....	133
addressing people	109	sex	134
making conversation	110	love	135
nationalities.....	111	problems	136
age	112	leaving.....	136
occupations & studies.....	113	beliefs & cultural	
family	114	differences	137
farewells.....	115	religion	137
interests.....	117	cultural differences.....	138
common interests.....	117	art.....	139
music.....	118	sport	141
cinema & theatre	119	sporting interests	141
feelings & opinions.....	121	going to a game.....	142
feelings.....	121	playing sport	143
opinions	122	fishing	146
politics & social issues	123	horse riding	147
the environment.....	125	soccer/football	148
going out.....	127	tennis & table tennis.....	149
where to go	127	water sports.....	150
invitations.....	128	outdoors.....	151
responding to invitations..	129	hiking	151
arranging to meet	129	beach	153
drugs	130	weather	154
romance.....	131	flora & fauna	155
asking someone out.....	131		

food157

eating out..... 157

- basics..... 157
- finding a place to eat 158
- at the restaurant 160
- at the table..... 164
- talking food 165
- methods of preparation.... 165
- nonalcoholic drinks 166

- alcoholic drinks 167
- in the bar 169
- drinking up 170

self-catering 171

vegetarian & special meals.. 173

- ordering food..... 173
- special diets & allergies 174

menu decoder..... 175

safe travel.....191

essentials..... 191

- emergencies..... 191
- police 192

health..... 195

- doctor 195
- symptoms & conditions 198

- women's health..... 201

- allergies..... 202

- parts of the body 203

- alternative treatments 204

- pharmacist 204

- dentist..... 206

dictionaries207

- english–greek
dictionary 207

- greek–english
dictionary 239

index251

greek



 official language

For more details, see the **introduction**.

Aristotle, Homer, Plato, Sappho, Herodotus and Alexander the Great can't all be wrong in their choice of language – if you've ever come across arcane concepts such as 'democracy', exotic disciplines like 'trigonometry' or a little-known neurosis termed 'the Oedipus complex', then you'll have some inkling of the widespread influence of Greek language and culture. With just a little Modern Greek under your belt, you'll have a richer understanding of this language's impact on contemporary Western culture.

Greek is the official language of Greece and a co-official language of Cyprus, in addition to being spoken by emigrant communities in Turkey, Australia, Canada, Germany and the United States.

In total, there are over 13 million Greek speakers worldwide.

Modern Greek constitutes a separate branch of the Indo-European language family, with Ancient Greek its only (extinct) relative. The first records of written Ancient Greek were found in the fragmentary Linear B tablets, dating from the 14th to the 12th centuries BC. By the 9th century BC, the Greeks had adapted the Phoenician alphabet to include vowels – the first alphabet to do so – and the script in use today came to its final form some time in the 5th century BC. The Greek script was the foundation for the Cyrillic script (used in Slavic languages) and the Latin alphabet (used in English and other European languages).

Although written Greek may have been remarkably stable

at a glance ...

language name: Greek

name in language:

Ελληνικά *e-li-ni-ka*,

Νέα Ελληνικά *ne-a e-li-ni-ka*

(Greek, Modern Greek)

language family:

Indo-European

(Hellenic branch)

key countries:

Greece, Cyprus

approximate number of speakers:

13 million worldwide

close relatives:

Ancient Greek

donations to English:

anarchy, astronomy,
cosmos, democracy,
drama, logic, politics ...

over the millennia, the spoken language has evolved considerably. In the 5th century, the dialect spoken around Athens (known as 'Attic') became the dominant speech as a result of the city-state's cultural and political prestige. Attic gained even greater influence as the medium of administration for the vast empire of Alexander the Great, and remained the official language of the Eastern Roman Empire and the Orthodox Church after the demise of the Hellenistic world. Once the Ottoman Turks took Constantinople in 1453, the Attic dialect lost its official function. In the meantime, the common language – known as *Koine* (Κοινή *ki-ni*) – continued to evolve. It developed a rich history of popular songs (δημοτικά τραγούδια *thi-mo-ti-ka tra-ghu-thia*) and absorbed vocabulary from Turkish, Italian, Albanian and other Balkan languages.

When an independent Greece returned to the world stage in 1832, it needed to choose a national language. Purists advocated a slightly modernised version of Attic known as *Καθαρεύουσα* *ka-tha-re-vu-sa* (from the Greek word for 'clean'), which no longer resembled the spoken language. *Koine*, or *laiki* as it was also known (λαϊκή *la-i-ki* means 'popular'), had strong support as it was spoken and understood by the majority of Greeks – in the end, this was the language which gained official recognition. By the mid-20th century, *Koine/laiki* was known as 'demotic' and continued in daily use. It was banned during Greece's military dictatorship (1967-74) but then reinstated as the official language of the Hellenic Republic.

This book gives you the practical phrases you need to get by in Greek, as well as all the fun, spontaneous phrases that can lead to a better understanding of Greeks and their culture. Once you've got the hang of how to pronounce Greek words, the rest is just a matter of confidence. Local knowledge, new relationships and a sense of satisfaction are on the tip of your tongue. So don't just stand there, say something!

abbreviations used in this book

a	adjective	n	neuter (after Greek)
acc	accusative	n	noun (after English)
f	feminine	nom	nominative
gen	genitive	pl	plural
inf	informal	pol	polite
lit	literal	sg	singular
m	masculine	v	verb

BASICS > pronunciation

προφορά

The pronunciation of Greek is easy to master, as most of the sounds correspond to those found in English. Use the coloured pronunciation guides to become familiar with them, and then read directly from the Greek when you feel more confident.



vowel sounds

Greek vowels are pronounced separately even when they're written in sequence, eg ζώο **zo-o** (animal). You'll see though in the table below that some letter combinations correspond to a single sound – ουρά (queue) is pronounced **u-ra**.

When a word ending in a vowel is followed by another word that starts with the same or a similar vowel sound, one vowel is usually omitted and the two words are pronounced as if they were one – Σε ευχαριστώ **se ef-kha-ris-to** becomes Σ' ευχαριστώ **sef-kha-ris-to** (Thank you). Note that the apostrophe (') is used to show that two words have been joined together.

symbol	english equivalent	greek example	transliteration
a	car	αλλά	a-la
e	bet	πλένομαι	ple-no-me
i	lid	πίσω, πόλη, υποφέρω, είδος, οικογένεια, υιός	pi-so, po-li, i-po-fe-ro, i-t̥hos, i-ko-ye-ni-a, i-os
o	lot	πόνος, πίσω	po-nos, pi-so
u	put	ουρά	u-ra
ia	nostalgia	ζητιάνος	zi-tia-nos
io	ratio	πιο	pio

consonant sounds

Most Greek consonant sounds are also found in English – only the guttural **gh** and **kh** might need a bit of practice. Double consonants are only pronounced once – άλλος **a·los** (other).

symbol	english equivalent	greek example	trans-literation
b	bed	μπαρ	bar
d	dog	ντομάτα	do·ma·ta
dz	adds	τζαμί	dza·mi
f	fit	φως, αυτή	fos, af·ti
g	gap	γκαρσόν	gar·son
gh	guttural sound, between goat and loch	γάτα	gha·ta
h	heat	χέρι	he·ri
k	kit	καλά	ka·la
kh	loch (guttural sound)	χαλί	kha·li
l	let	λάδι	la·zhi
m	mat	μαζί	ma·zi
n	not	ναός	na·os
ng	singer	ελέγχω	e·leng·kho
p	pin	πάνω	pa·no
ps	lapse	ψάρι	psa·ri
r	red (trilled)	ράβω	ra·vo
s	sad	στυλό	sti·lo
t	top	τι	ti
th	theatre	θέα	the·a
ʔh	the	δεν	ʔhen
ts	hats	τσέπη	tse·pi
v	vase	βίζα, αύριο	vi·za, av·ri·o
y	yes	γέρος	ye·ros
z	zoo	ζέστη	ze·sti